

Mrs. L. Hoyt Watson

105 Allen's Point

Marion, MA 02738

508-748-0674

oldsalt@compuserve.com

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Dan Glickman, Sec'y, USDA
200-A Whitten Bldg.
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250



Dear Mr. Glickman:

On February 24th, 1999, after ten days of intense negotiations involving more than 135 countries, the United States finally managed to torpedo the Biosafety Protocol talks being held in Cartagena, Colombia. Throughout the talks the United States relentlessly lobbied against any proposed safeguards on the trade of Genetically Engineered Crops, including regulations that required exporting nations to inform importing nations if shipments contained genetically modified organisms!

We must have legislation that mandates stringent regulations for the testing that is derived from, processed with, or that contains any genetically engineered organisms before they are released for sale.

We must demand that any food that contains even one genetically engineered ingredient be clearly and accurately labeled so that we consumers may decide for ourselves whether or not we want to eat these products or feed them to our children.

In the United States there has been little or no discussion about genetic engineering. People are unaware that anything unusual is happening to their food! This is because most of the current regulatory statues allow companies to withhold health and safety information from the public, and the big companies (Monsanto, Dow, DuPont, CIBA-Geigy and Novartis) are determined to keep it that way!

Please act quickly and decisively to interrupt this chain of insidious events in whatever way you can! American citizens have a right to know what is in their food before they buy it and eat. Industrial profit, not public safety has become the administration's top priority.

Sincerely,

Anne S. Watson

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